

Remarks

I. Application Status

In the Office Action, claims 1-8, 14-18, 20-23, 79, 83 and 84 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. In addition, claims 1-8, 14-18, 20-23, 79, 83 and 84 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicant has herein amended claims 1 and 15 to clarify the claimed invention and expedite prosecution. Support for the claim amendments made herein may be found throughout the specification of the Subject Application. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added. For the reasons set forth hereinbelow, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims in the Subject Application (i.e., claims 1-8, 14-18, 20-23, 79, 83 and 84) are in condition for allowance.

II. Section 112, First Paragraph Rejection

Claims 1-8, 14-18, 20-23, 79, 83 and 84 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing "subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention." Applicant respectfully submits, however, that claims 1 and 15, and thus 2-8, 14, 16-18, 20-23, 79, 83 and 84 which ultimately depend therefrom, satisfy the written description requirement of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Figure 11 of the specification discloses a cross-section of the generally U-shaped infeed rail 42. At page 13, lines 2-16, the specification as originally filed discloses that the infeed rail 42 defines a trough 43 having an inner arm 44, an outer arm 45 and a bottom 46. As can be seen in Figure 17, the infeed extension 64 has a slide rail 80 that is slidably received on the infeed rail 42. See specification, p. 17, ll. 13-22. Further, slide rail 80 has arms 81 and 82 wherein arm 81 sits atop outer arms 45 of the infeed rail 42 and arm 82 is slidably received within trough 43 and abutting outer arm 45. See Id., p. 18, ll. 1-5. Accordingly, Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected when viewing the above-mentioned Figures in connection with the passages discussed above, would understand that the infeed rail 42 is configured such that no portion of the infeed rail 42 obstructs the upward adjustment in elevation of the infeed extension 64 relative to the work surface 12.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 15 satisfy 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicant further submits that claims 2-8, 14, 16-18, 20-23, 79, 83 and 84 also satisfy 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as each of these claims ultimately depend from either claim 1 or 15.

III. Section 112, Second Paragraph Rejection

In the Office Action, claims 1-8, 14-18, 20-23, 79, 83 and 84 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In particular, the Office Action states that it is not clear how the infeed rail is "configured" to permit the unrestricted adjustment.

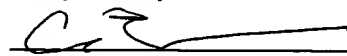
Applicant has amended claims 1 and 15 to satisfy the threshold requirements of clarity and precision of §112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 15 to clarify that the infeed rail is configured such that no portion of the infeed rail obstructs the upward adjustment in elevation of the infeed extension relative to the work surface.

In view of the amendments made to claims 1 and 15, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 15 satisfy the threshold requirements of clarity and precision of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and that a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand the metes and bounds of these claims when read in light of the specification. Applicant further submits that claims 2-8, 14, 16-18, 20-23, 79, 83 and 84, which ultimately depend from either independent claim 1 or 15, likewise satisfy 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and passage to allowance of the Subject Application at an early date are earnestly solicited. If the undersigned can be of assistance in advancing the Subject Application to allowance, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



Craig M. Waller
Reg. No. 54,771

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART, LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222
Ph. (412) 355-8355
Fax: (412) 355-6501
E-mail: cwaller@kl.com